


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: January 28, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development
RE: Friday Report 
CC: Board of Aldermen
Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 01/31/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nonantum Advisory Committee, 6:00 p.m., Pellegrini Activity Building
Tuesday 02/1/11	
Wednesday 02/2/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fair Housing Committee, 8:00 a.m., Room 202
Thursday 02/3/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Farm Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 209• Newtonville Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 202

- **Nonantum Advisory Committee:** The Committee is scheduled to meet at the Pellegrini Park Community Room, located at 11 Hawthorn Street on Monday, January 31st at 6:00 p.m. Agenda items include project updates for the FY08 and FY11 CDBG projects as well as the ARRA-funded improvements at Stearns Park and Pellegrini Park. **Contact Danielle Bailey at 617.796.1139 or dbailey@newtonma.gov.**
- **Fair Housing Committee:** The Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 2nd at 8:00 a.m. in Room 202. On the agenda for this month are suggestions for a Fair Housing Month event; discussion on the first draft of the architectural accessibility compliance report; review of Newton's proposed FY12 Annual Action Plan; report on Planning and Development Board activities; and other business. **Contact Robert Muollo at 617.796.1146 or rmuollo@newtonma.gov.**
- **The Farm Commission:** The Commission will meet on Thursday, February 3th at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209. On the agenda for this month are a report on farm operations, update on Community Preservation Committee's Barn Renovation Project, discussion of building insurance, new Commission applicants, and minutes. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**
- **Newtonville Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on Thursday, February 3rd at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202. The following applications will be reviewed: **79 Lowell Avenue** request to add bathroom addition, north side; and **34 Foster Street** request to widen previously approved driveway. Other business includes approval of minutes from the November 2010 meeting and annual election of officers. **Contact Katy Holmes at 617.796.1143 or kholmes@newtonma.gov.**
- **Continuum of Care Awards Announced:** Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, recently announced the award of \$1.41 billion in funds to keep nearly 7,000 local homeless assistance programs offering critically needed housing and services to homeless persons and families in the coming year. The Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown Continuum of Care was awarded over \$1.1 million in funds to support permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals, permanent housing for homeless families and transitional housing programs for survivors of domestic violence and homeless young men. For a complete listing of awards visit HUD's website at: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/homeless/budget/2010/index.cfm> or **Contact Amy Yuhasz at 617.796.1122 or ayuhasz@newtonma.gov.**

- Newton Disabilities Commission:** At their meeting on January 18th the Board of Aldermen voted to accept the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, section 8J, and establish by ordinance a Commission on Disabilities in the City of Newton. Prior to the establishment of the Commission, the volunteer Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities advised the Mayor on issues concerning people with disabilities for over 35 years, and collaborated with the Mayor on the goal of transitioning to a Disabilities Commission. The Commission is charged with responsibilities such as: researching local problems of people with disabilities, assisting municipal officials and employees in ensuring compliance with state and federal laws and regulations that affect people with disabilities, coordinating programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities and providing information, referrals, guidance and technical assistance to individuals, public agencies, businesses and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability. The Disabilities Commission meets every 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the City Hall Cafeteria. **Contact Kathleen Cahill at 617.796.1125 or kcahill@newtonma.gov.**
- Good Deeds "Do" Get Noticed:** Planning & Development staff volunteered time over the holidays to make gift baskets for The Second Step organization. Below is an excerpt from the letter of thanks sent to our staff.

On behalf of the families we serve at The Second Step, I would like to extend a warm and heartfelt thank you for your generosity during our 2010 Holiday Gift Drive. The holidays are commonly a time of stress and uncertainty for families still recovering from the trauma and the financial hardships caused by abuse; however, because of you the families we serve were able to have a happy holiday season, and their futures were made brighter.

The 2010 Holiday Gift Drive was an enormous success! You along with other generous collaborators provided gifts to 105 families or 294 individuals, all of whom have participated in one or more programs of The Second Step. The Holiday Gift Drive creates an opportunity for every day heroes like you, to reach out to our most vulnerable families, and in the process, make the impossible seem possible, and suddenly, there is hope and joy again, as well as immense gratitude. We hear from our families after they receive their gifts. We want to share with you a sampling of the sentiments we've received:

One mother of six said, *"Thank you, thank you, thank you. You don't know how much you have helped us. I had absolutely nothing to give my children, and then I got all of these wonderful things...we are going to have a wonderful Christmas, thank you for all of your help and all of your support throughout the year."*

Another mom said, *"I thought when I filled out a wish list I would get a couple of things, but this is the best thing—it is unbelievable. These are things I have needed for a long time, but just haven't been able to afford and it's...well I can't say thank you enough."*

Often, our Clients volunteer at the gift drive helping to sort, wrap and deliver gifts as a way to give back to The Second Step for the help they received. After returning from a delivery, one Client presented the staff with a little pink snowsuit she had purchased. Earlier, she had heard the staff discussing how a young mom had just moved into one of our residences and was in desperate need of warm winter clothing for her newborn daughter. This gesture demonstrates the extraordinary spirit of giving in all of us, and because of you, that spirit came alive for someone, who like many of the families we serve are working to rebuild their lives and hope that someday they can return the favor and help others in need. For this client, the opportunity to experience the joy of giving was an important component of her own healing.